

President John F. Kennedy: “Well, Admiral, it looks as though this is up to the Navy.”

Chief of Naval Operations Admiral George W. Anderson: “Mr. President, the Navy will not let you down.”

Cordon of Steel

The U.S. Navy and the Cuban Missile Crisis

by Curtis A. Utz

No. 1

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Series Editor

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Foreword

This study launches the Naval Historical Center's new series entitled *The U.S. Navy in the Modern World*. The purpose of the series is to inform today's naval personnel and other readers of the contributions made by the naval service to the nation, in war and peace, since 1945. During this period, the Navy contained Soviet and Communist expansion, deterred nuclear and conventional attack on the United States, protected American trade at sea and ashore, strengthened regional alliances, and fostered the growth of democratic and free market institutions worldwide. The strength and overseas presence of the U.S. fleet often resolved crises without the use of force, but when force was necessary the Navy fought hard and well.

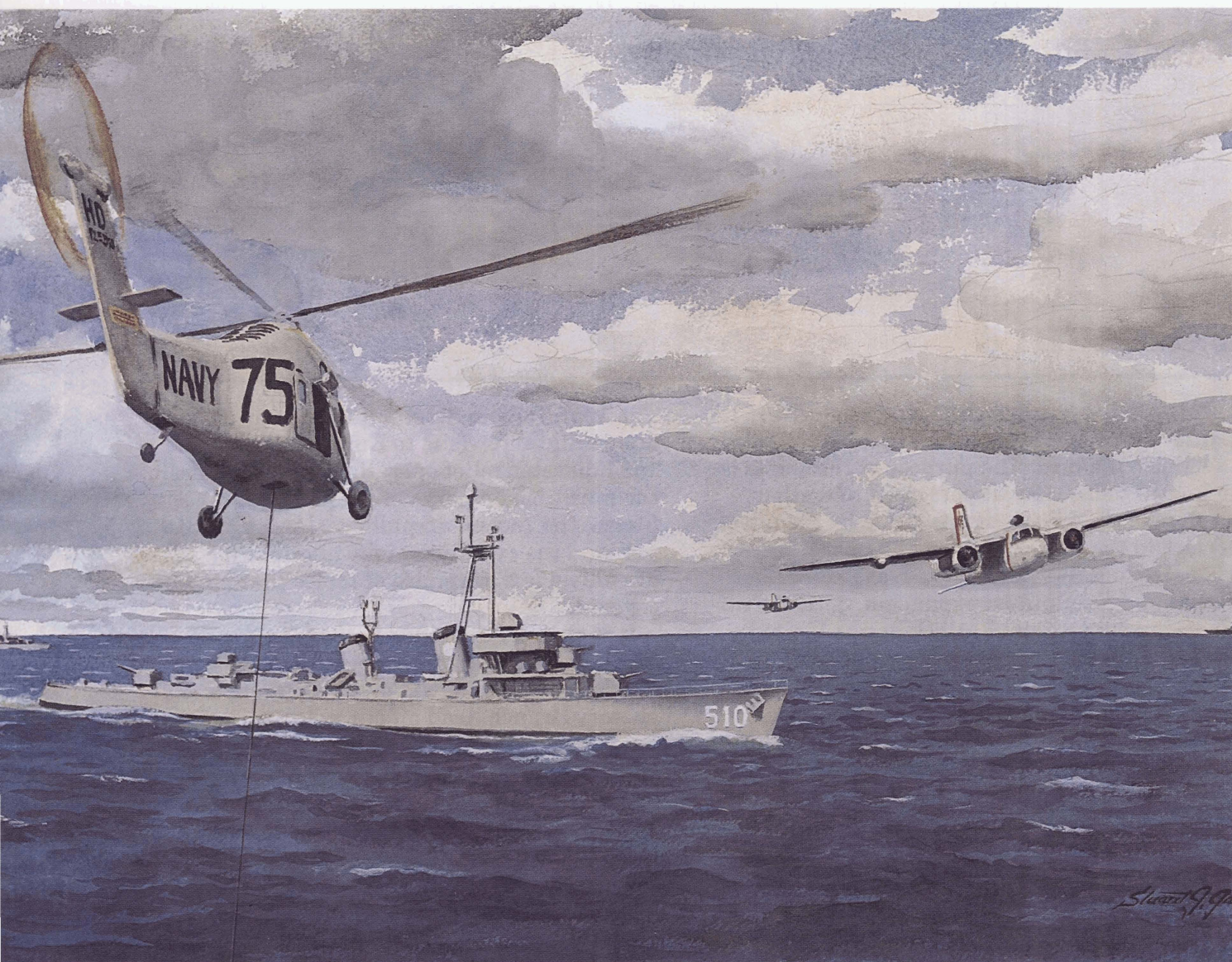
Broad in scope, *The U.S. Navy in the Modern World* series will include studies on the Navy's deterrence of war, support for U.S. foreign policy, refugee evacuations and other humanitarian activities, joint and multinational operations, ship and aircraft development, the projection of power ashore, ship, aircraft, and weapons development, and similar subjects.

The 1958 Taiwan Strait crisis, Atlantic Fleet diplomatic ship visits to European ports, the 1991 disaster relief operations in Bangladesh, the maritime embargo of Iraq in Desert Storm, the Inchon amphibious landing in Korea, and the evolution of naval cruise missiles are only a few examples of topics that may be covered.

It is entirely appropriate that *Cordon of Steel: The U.S. Navy and the Cuban Missile Crisis*, by Curtis A. Utz of our Contemporary History Branch, lead off our new series. His study is a dramatic example of how the U.S. Navy's multipurpose ships and aircraft, flexible task organization, and great mobility enabled President Kennedy to protect national interests in one of the most serious confrontations of the Cold War.

The views expressed are those of Mr. Utz alone, and not those of the Department of the Navy or any other agency of the U.S. Government.

Dean C. Allard
Director of Naval History



Navy Art Collection #460

On the cover: "Team Work—ASW," watercolor by Stuart Garrett. Destroyer *Eaton* (DD 510), an S-2 Tracker plane, and a Sikorsky HSS-2 helicopter streaming her sonar gear search for elusive submarines in the depths of the ocean.